GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1953
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2003
PRODUCTION OF COAL
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal production has recorded a slump during the last year because of the recent discoveries of natural gas causing low demand for the coal from power and industrial sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Indian coal is low in sulphur content but high in non-combustible matter resulting in accumulation of bye-product fly ash;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have considered the setting up of beneficiation plants at pitheads to make it more competitive vis-Ã -vis natural gas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA)

(a)&(b):No, Sir. The production of coal in the country has increased from 313.70 million tonnes in 2000-01 to 327.79 million tonnes in 2001-02.

(c)&(d):The Indian coal, due to its `drift origin` is, in general, having high non combustible matter resulting in generation of ash. The ash content in Indian coal varies widely from around 10% to 50%. However, Indian coal is having low sulphur content, generally less than 0.5% except tertiary Assam coal.

(e)&(f):The setting up of new non coking coal beneficiation plants at pit-head is required mainly on environment consideration. Presently CIL is operating six washeries for beneficiation of non coking coal namely Dugda, Lodna, Kargali, Gidi, Piparwar and Bina. Government encourages washing of high ash coal by private washeries.